

SITUATION REPORT NO. 48
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: June 11, 1997 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Devils Lake has remained steady for nearly a week at 1,442.17 feet. The National Weather Service expects the lake to peak at 1,443 to 1,444 feet by mid-July.

Wave action from Devils Lake has forced Ramsey County Rural Utility System to shut an inundated sewer lift station, which affects three shoreline subdivisions, Elmwood, Northwood and Walford. The utility has lost 20 accounts as a result.

In Benson County, heavy traffic on Woods-Rutten Road has caused a severe dust problem, creating hazardous driving conditions. Each day, approximately 2,000 cars travel the nine-mile, gravel road that transects Benson, Nelson and Ramsey Counties. During the past weekend, the road section that crosses Devils Lake was severely damaged by high winds.

Snowmelt and rainfall in Montana is flowing from the Yellowstone River into the Missouri River, forcing the latter above flood stage at Williston. The Missouri River at Williston has risen to 23.86 feet on June 11, 3.86 feet above the 20-foot flood stage. At this level, agricultural flooding occurs south and east of Williston. Oil companies temporarily suspend pumping operations. The National Weather Service expects the river to crest at 24.2 feet on June 12.

Dry soil conditions, caused by a lack of precipitation and above normal temperatures, are hindering crop production throughout the state. Staff for the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service has reported topsoil moisture is more than two thirds short to very short, the driest early June since 1988.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Approximately two months after flooding occurred, volunteer agencies continue to provide meals to flood-displaced persons and emergency workers. To date, the American Red Cross has served 947,935 meals. The Salvation Army continues to provide up to 4,000 meals a day through eight mobile canteens in the Grand Forks area. During the disaster, Southern Baptist Disaster Response prepared meals in its mobile kitchens.

A second drawing will be held June 18 for free fencing materials for North Dakota farmers and ranchers who lost fencing as a result of the winter blizzards and spring flood. Farmers and ranchers can register for the drawing by contacting the Agriculture Disaster Response Center (ADRC) at (888) 337-8632. The donated fencing material is coming from the state of Iowa.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Schafer has appointed attorney Murray Sagsveen to serve as the state Flood Recovery Coordinator in Grand Forks and the Red River Valley. Maj. Gen. Sagsveen, a retired N.D. National Guard member, will be placed on state active duty. He will be assigned to Grand Forks initially to work with city officials on long-term issues, including flood mitigation planning. He will also oversee flood prevention projects being developed by Red River communities and ensure projects are coordinated within an overall basin-wide plan that includes Minnesota.

The Spirit Lake Nation Tribal Council met with state and federal officials on June 10 to discuss economic issues, business viability, housing and emergency services. Participants included representatives of the N.D. Division of Emergency Management, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Small Business Administration (SBA), American Red Cross and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

As of June 10, Job Service North Dakota has received 6,228 claims for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) and paid more than \$2 million in benefits to self-employed persons, farmers, migrant workers and farm workers. The deadline for filing for DUA benefits is June 30. State job insurance benefit applications taken between April 21 through June 6 total 16,310 compared to 2,715 during the same time period last year. To date, Job Service has paid \$2.5 million in state unemployment benefits to disaster survivors.

FEMA and state disaster workers will open an information center during the Red River Valley Fair June 18-24 in Fargo to provide general information about disaster programs to the public. The center will be staffed by representatives of SBA, FEMA Community Relations, FEMA Human Services, FEMA congressional liaisons, FEMA Public Affairs and State/FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Plans call for opening additional information centers at other fairs in North Dakota.

The Pembina County Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) will close June 11. Three DRCs located in Grand Forks, Fargo and Devils Lake remain open until further notice.

The Attorney General has authored a consumer column for North Dakota newspapers that offers advice on how to avoid purchasing flood-damaged vehicles.

To date, Public Assistance staff has determined that costs of eligible damages total more than \$16.3 million for infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal in the declared counties.

As of June 10, 34,262 North Dakotans have reported personal property damages to the National Teleregistration Center (NTC). Of those applicants, 21,966 have received \$40.1 million in Disaster Housing assistance.

The SBA has received 6,670 loan applications. Of these, 4,432 have been approved for a total of approximately \$92.9 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals.

The state Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program has approved more than \$2.5 million in grants to individuals for flood losses. The average IFG grant is \$1,138.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Other web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>

N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>

N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>

N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>

U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbnk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>

Douglas C. Friez, State Director